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Date January 30, 2004

To Examiner Liang, USPTO

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From Ronald Kimble

Subject Request for Examiner's Interview

Our Ref Q64665 Your Ref FSF-01681

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(including cover sheet)

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**PATENT APPLICATION**  
**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of

Docket No: Q64665

Toshiya KOJIMA, et al.

Appln. No.: 09/899,530

Group Art Unit: 2853

Confirmation No.: 3383

Examiner: Leonard S. LIANG

Filed: July 06, 2001

For: IMAGE-FORMING DEVICE

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**REQUEST FOR INTERVIEW**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir,

The undersigned attorney, on behalf of Applicants, respectfully requests a personal or telephone interview with the Examiner to discuss the November 5, 2003 Office Action. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the below listed telephone number to arrange for such an interview. Per our telephone conversation with Examiner Liang, proposed topics of discussion were requested to be submitted prior to scheduling the Interview.

In general, Applicants' representative would like to discuss the claim interpretation for the recited term "period" in the claims of the subject application.

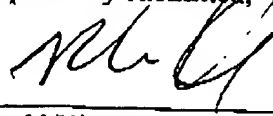
More specifically, the Examiner states in the Office Action that Nakamura et al. clearly teaches "[t]he electric power reduction unit sets the predetermined time period variable in accordance with frequency of image forming operations discriminated by the discriminating unit." Thus, the Examiner concludes that "there is inherent to the invention, an on/off control signal having a period that expresses an amount of time required for one on/off cycle." The

Examiner refers to the Abstract and col. 1., lines 29-47 of Nakamura et al. as providing this inherency.

In previous Amendments, Applicants argued that Nakamura et al. fail to disclose the period of on/off control as recited in the claims. Applicants argued that each period shown in Nakamura et al. (citing Figure 16) is a duration of time from a completion of a warm-up operation or a previous completion of a printing mode to the next printing mode, rather than the period of on/off control as recited in the claims of the present application.

Applicants view is that the Nakamura et al. "period" expresses an amount of time from a completion of a warm-up operation or a previous completion of a printing mode to the next printing mode. On the other hand, in the present invention, as recited in the claims, the period "expresses an amount of time required for one on/off cycle." An amount of time between printing modes as disclosed in Nakamura et al. (both the Abstract and Figure 16) is completely opposite from an amount of time required for one on/off cycle, based on our understanding. That is, to relate the Nakamura et al. "period" to the present invention, the Nakamura et al. "period" is an amount of time required for one off cycle. As such, Applicants would appreciate if the Examiner would schedule a personal or telephone interview at his convenience to discuss this issue.

Respectfully submitted,



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